

# HUNTING IN IRELAND UNDER DIFFICULTIES

English Horseman From U. S. Tells of Following Hounds in Troubled Free State.

## DAY WITH BRAY HARRIERS

'Wound Up to Jump Any Line of Country' and Glad of It, He Says.

By CAPT. H. H. HOLMES.

It was with the greatest pleasure and with the keenest anticipation of some fine hunting that I accepted a wonderful invitation of a sportsman well known with the three packs of foxhounds that hunt the country round about Middleburg, Va., to do a "soapy sponge hunt" through Ireland and England. We left Virginia in January to board the good ship Scythia and found three more "foxhunters" on the same errand. They were Miss Marion Hollins, a well known in the hunting field and on the polo grounds as on the golf links; Sir Robert Green Price, M. F. H. of a pack of hounds in Herefordshire, and descendant of a long line of "masters." He was temporarily absent from his hounds owing to pressing business in America—a most delightful sportsman, and we were sorry we could not accept his invitation to hunt with him. The third was a grandson of old John Minton, a renegade old sporting character as well known as his biographer, Nimrod, or Surtees' immortal Jorrocks. In Nimrod's "Life" it is said that he got rid of a bit of bludgeoning Myton and his nightingale. From my concentrated shipboard friendship with his grandson I can quite believe it to be true. It was altogether a wonderful overture to the feast of hunting that was to come.

### Running Into Trouble.

My friend and I left the boat at Queenstown—named something else now by the Free State—and naturally ran into trouble. We wanted to get to Cork, about twelve miles away. Usually the train meets the boat, but what with strikes and disorders, we had to do some walking. Eventually we got the Imperial Hotel to send a motor for us and our luggage. It necessitated two trips and a lot of money.

We fully expected to be able to hire hunters and have a go with the Muskerry and the United Hunts, but unlike former times there were no horses to be had. In fact, there was a statement that every man would have to go to the States and buy horses there. However, I was told that all over the country, but the most convincing proof I had was that no one would let me see a horse. I was told that a carload of hunters had been purchased there. Owing to our inability to get away, due to railroad strikes and fights, we waited a week in Cork. Eventually we had to return to Limerick at a hold-up rate, get on a train there for a distance, and had to motor again, staying a few days at a very hospitable friends in County Mayo. Here, owing to the war and national friction, hunting had stopped, but we met a few keen "followers" that got up at 5 o'clock, trained and motor to a place called the Galway Bangers or the South Mayo Hounds.

### A Disastrous Day.

This did not appeal to us, so we trained and motored to Dublin, putting up at the Shelbourne Hotel. We soon ran across Bob Johnson, a dealer, who resided in America for many years, and was well known to all the prominent dealers here. He assured us he could find all the horses we wanted, so we decided to hunt with the packs round Dublin before going to England. Our very first day was a disastrous one. Motoring to the meet of the Ward Union (stars) we had two blow-outs which made us a little late. We were well mounted and both in a first flight for a few fields, when my host's horse slid down a huge slippery bank and broke his (the horse's) shoulder. This, of course, stopped our hunting that day. Nobody's fault, just bad luck; but it was a big bank. "Looked to him like a Grand Canyon," said my Virginia friend afterward. One horse killed was certainly a bad start.

The next few days we hunted with the Meath and the Kildares, both fox. Held our own, but nothing exciting. We then went out with the Bray (stars) (stars). Started out in the morning with the idea that they hunted hard and were most horrified to find out their true and dangerous character. However, there were compensations. The meet, held in one of the suburbs of Dublin, we were most lavishly entertained and thoroughly wound up to jump any line of country. Then, to my great surprise, it was just this little bit of encouragement that kept me from going home after the first bank. It was a big one, with a deep ditch, filled with mud, mud and slippy. My horse, under an unsuccessful effort and slowly slid down the bank into the ditch, with me underneath. He got up right away, only stepping on me a few times, and then, while I lay covered from head to foot with slimy mud, got up again. Then he repeated the performance, except this time he refused to get off me or make the slightest attempt to get out of the ditch.

### Finish in Dublin Streets.

By this time there were forty or fifty persons shouting and cheering, pulling me from the horse and whipping the latter out of the brook. Except that I wanted a drink very badly we were none the worse, and after scraping myself and finding a gap went on to be in time for the second run. We really had a wonderful gallop then, finishing fourteen strong out of a field of about sixty. Then some more compensation happened, and it was much needed. This time the drag finished almost in the streets of Dublin and at a very hospitable place presided over by a famous hunter in hunting, who, unfortunately, I can't remember at the moment.

This was my third season's hunting in Ireland and thoroughly convinced me that my former impressions of Irish hunting were correct. I have just also found that except as a novel hunting there cannot be compared with that shown by any of the good packs of England.

The country is a very treacherous one to ride over and calls for great qualities on your horse's part, more than "bold, big jumping." It is not surprising to see so many loose horses, and you consider the nature of the jumps, and many of the very best school horses, through no fault of their own or their riders, come down. The most intelligent horse and horseman can only guess the nature of the bank he is negotiating. It may be solid, it may be crumbling; it usually is very slippery. As for the hounds, I have just seen an Irish pack that can work half as well as those of the better known of the English hounds.

### Estimate of Irish Hunter.

The Irish hunter, if he has had more than one season's hunting in Ireland, seldom shows any willingness to spread himself over a big fence and ditch, invariably dropping his hind legs in the

# Horse Show Dates for Season of 1922

Brooklyn, N. Y.	April 13-22
New York (Durland's)	April 23-28
Philadelphia (Indoor)	May 4-6
Washington, D. C.	May 12-17
Arlington Park, Va.	May 12-17
Yonkers, N. Y.	May 12-17
Devon, Pa.	May 12-17
Tuxedo, N. Y.	June 2-3
West 30th St., N. Y.	June 2-3
Chicago, Ill.	June 7-10
Horsham, Pa.	June 9-10
White Plains, N. Y.	June 9-10
Huntington, L. I.	June 23-24
Manhasset Neck, L. I.	June 23-24
Bayboro, L. I.	June 23-24
Islip, L. I.	June 23-24
Long Beach, N. Y.	July 8 or 15
Stamford, Conn.	Aug. 4-5
Stamford, Conn.	Aug. 11-12
Charlottesville, Va.	Aug. 18-19
Warrenton, Va.	Aug. 23-24
Albany, N. Y.	Aug. 23-24
Newport, R. I.	Aug. 28-29
Columbus, Ohio	Aug. 28-29
Cosmos, Iowa	Sept. 2-3
Toronto, Ont.	Aug. 28-29
Albany, N. Y.	Sept. 2-3
White Plains, N. Y.	Sept. 2-3
Wilmington, Del.	Sept. 4-5
Syracuse, N. Y.	Sept. 4-5
Hochester, N. Y.	Sept. 4-5
Syracuse, N. Y.	Sept. 11-12
Leakside, N. Y.	Sept. 11-12
Greenwich, Conn.	Sept. 11-12
Naushon, N. Y.	Sept. 11-12
Springfield, Ill.	Sept. 11-12
Morrisville, N. J.	Sept. 11-12
Minneapolis, Minn.	Sept. 21-22
Bray, Mass.	Sept. 21-22
West Chester, Pa.	Oct. 4-5
Leicester, Mass.	Oct. 12-14
White Plains, N. Y.	Oct. 12-14
Portland, Ore.	Nov. 4-11
Chicago (International)	Dec. 2-9
Longfellow Station, Va.	Dec. 9

ditch. Riding people and a lot of horsemen have been instilled with the idea that an Irish hunter is the best conveyance, and many a hundred English horses have had their pantlegs denied to cater to the effects of this clever propaganda.

In a final review of Irish hunting my friend from Virginia said that the only trick he could negotiate with any degree of certainty was the Bank of Ireland.

We spent quite a nice evening in the office of the Freeman's Journal, which is also the Irish branch of The New York Herald. There we met Harry Moore, who manages the paper; his wife and Fraser Hunt of Hearst's and some more good fellows, including John Fraser, professor of mathematics at Trinity. We kidnapped the party, although the paper had not gone to press, and held them in our rooms at the Shelbourne until the small hours. Not many days later a couple of hundred of De Valera's gunmen smashed all the paper's machinery, tried to burn the building down and did \$100,000 worth of damage.

### Stories of Harry W. Smith.

The Freeman's Journal for many years has upheld the right of Ireland for self-government and was raised and put to much inconvenience by the British for a long time, and now the De Valera band, because this paper upholds the terms of the treaty, ruins one of their old friends. What can you do with such people?

But we are digressing; so back to hunting. Of course, from Mayo to Dublin the place was plentiful of Harry Worcester Smith's stories. Harry was of Ford ones. It will be remembered that Mr. Smith took on the mastership of the West Meath for a period.

While the American pack, with their lack of discipline and indifference to what they killed, were not in favor, even were feared, yet Mr. Smith left the country with a reputation for hard riding and sportsmanship that will remain in the minds of Irishmen for many a long day. His negro whips were praised for their courageous riding, but their methods of accomplishing their purpose were criticized. Mr. Smith's private pack, distinct from the Irish hounds belonging to the hunt, after many escapades not becoming to a disciplined pack of hounds, were shot for killing and eating four calves in one day, as the stories go.

One of the strange phenomena of the horse auctions in New York and vicinity this spring is the unusually low prices for which trucks and heavy wagons are being sold. Vehicles that cost \$300 or more when new are often struck off for \$60 or even less. One's first impression of seeing the slaughter is that the heavy draught horse and his equipment are gone, but when a motor truck comes under the hammer at the same sale this impression goes glimmering for a machine that cost \$5,000 or more is hard to sell at \$500. Market experts explain the situation by saying the poor demand for both sides of vehicles is due to business conditions, and very largely the business of importing and exporting. This port was overwhelmed with freight going out and coming in during the years of the great war, and the truckmen enlarged their equipment to handle it all. The reaction left most of them with many idle horses and trucks on their hands, and these are at coming into the market to keep the trade more or less demoralized. The dealers in horses find much consolation and encouragement in the present demand for delivery trucks and light panel cars. Delivery wagons. Second hand ones have seldom brought such prices as at present. Not so with the motor delivery wagons that go through the auctions, however. These are sold at very high prices, as great as the heavier and more costly motor trucks. Well worn ones bring a good deal less than the delivery wagons without any motors in them.

The pernicious practice of putting horses through the auctions at fictitious prices after they have been purchased privately is calling forth a good many expressions like the following from a prominent Virginia breeder and dealer: "I do wish we could have actual figures of all sales so we could get information absolutely reliable as to market prices." It makes a show horse look important for the moment to be sold under the hammer for \$5,000, but when the horse is beaten shortly afterward by one that brought only \$1,000 it does not look so good to either the buyer or the seller who are the cause of the fault in the matter. No auctioneer can prevent such things, but it might perhaps have some effect if The New York Herald were to omit such prices from its future reports of auction sales.

George Watson had a capital sale of hunters and saddle horses at Durland's Riding Academy on Tuesday evening. It is always difficult for a local dealer to get full value for good horses under the hammer, and the prices realized were not all that high. Some of the horses were prominent amateurs had been selling out his stable, yet they were fully up to expectations in nearly all cases, and Mr. Watson was well pleased with the results. His 22 hand brought \$6,150. Thomas F. Young paid the top price, \$10,000, for the big chestnut hunter Desert Dreamer. Brightly, a 16-hand gray, also went to his bid of \$550. For the gray mare Cherry Blossom Princess Goldmine paid \$650 and for the chestnut saddle mare Princess Mary, 15 hands high, Charles Butler gave \$375.

Carrying coals to Newcastle will have a parallel when Mr. Watson exports his next lot of horses to England on April 23. He is going to take along with him a lot of trotters and pacers some half

# SHOW HORSES NOW MOVE TO DURLAND'S

Twenty-seventh Annual Exhibition There to Open on Tuesday Evening.

By G. CHAPLIN.

The first of the season's important horse shows ended last night at the Brooklyn Riding and Driving Club, and on Tuesday evening the New York Spring Horse Show will begin at Durland's Riding Academy, to run through Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Its diversified prize list has drawn a host of entries, including most of the horses that were prominent in Brooklyn, and the show is expected to be one of the most successful of the season. It should rival the best of the twenty-six that have preceded it at Durland's. With many new horses and with new judges to place them, developments promise to be peculiarly interesting for all those who follow the fortunes of the show ring stars. Mr. Durland has decorated and beautified the big arena with a lavishly hand for the occasion which always marks the climax of the season at the Sixty-third street school of equitation, and Reginald C. Vanderbilt and his associates of the show have arranged a number of spectacular features, such as an indoor polo tournament and a parade of the mounted police, to add to the varied character of the program.

In the saddle classes, which are very fittingly the stellar attraction at this show, George Crouch promises to be the largest exhibitor. He has made twenty-one entries for Artist's Model, Golden King, Copper King, King of Comus, Stanmore, Norma, Blaise and others. Some of these were prominent winners at last year's horse shows, while others are newcomers in what is now one of the largest stables of riding horses in the country. Mr. Crouch's total is exceeded by no other exhibitor, little Miss Constance Regan and her sister, Jean, having made twenty-four nominations for their harness and saddle ponies, and a coach and harness team. In last week's show, Major Willis D. Crittenden of West Point has sixteen entries in the polo and jumping classes, which are the most numerous of the show. 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